

LITTLE RAFAEL MEX BAWLS THE UMP ON VERA CRUZ SAND LOTS JUST LIKE GRINGO KIDS

BY FRED L. BOALT

Vera Cruz.—In your town they would be known to their fellows as "Shorty," "Fatty," "Skinny," "Mick-ey," and so on.

In your town they would beg one another to 't'run her here once." And if one of them, who owned the only ball or bat, threatened to quit



"Batter Up" at Vera Cruz.

and take his property with him if he could not pitch, the rest of them would want to know what he wanted to "crab" the game for.

It seems incongruous that the sand-lot boys of Vera Cruz should be Rafael, and Sanchez, and Jose, and Miguel.

It is odd to hear the boy umpire call "Dos strikes!" and "Tres balls!" and to hear Miguel, at the bat, denounce the umpire as a robber—in Spanish.

But they are adepts, these Vera Cruz sand-lot boys. They imitate Ty Cobb's mannerisms just as the sand-lot boys in your town do.